

Eastern Puerto Rico

Third Round Promise Zone Designee



Lead Organization:

Local Redevelopment
Authority for Roosevelt
Roads

Population:

33,813

Poverty Rate:

45.77%

Unemployment rate:

17.34%

Key Partners:

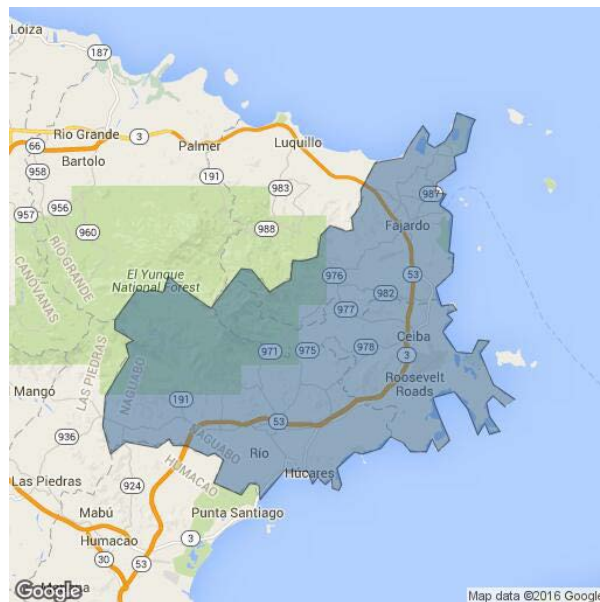
Municipalities of Ceiba;
Fajardo and Naguabo;
Master Developer Ariel
Investment Management,
LLC; Calthorpe Associates;
Marine Environmental
Remediation Group;
MidAtlantic Shipyards LLC;
Puerto Rico Fast Ferries,
LLC; Flagship Services
Corp; Municipal Police
Departments; Puerto Rico
Department of Justice;
Puerto Rico Department
of Agriculture; Desarrollos
Planificados, Inc.; Florece
Hidroponia; Puerto Rico
Housing Finance Authority

About the Eastern Puerto Rico Promise Zone

The Eastern Puerto Rico Promise Zone is comprised of the three communities of Ceiba, Fajardo, and Naguabo in the Northeast corner of Puerto Rico. The area suffered a big financial loss when the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station closed in 2004. The three communities affected by this closure have joined forces to form the Local Redevelopment Authority of Roosevelt (LRA). The LRA plans to not only improve community infrastructure but also to rejuvenate economic activity in the region, increase access to health care, improve educational opportunity, reduce violent crime, and jumpstart job creation. In 2013, the Navy completed the transfer of 3,409 acres and 1,600 facilities to LRA.

Leadership and Goals

The Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) for Roosevelt Roads in partnership with more than 10 organizations will lead the Promise Zone initiative in Eastern Puerto Rico. With an unemployment rate of 17.34%, job creation is a key priority for the region. The LRA plan to spearhead job growth by partnering with MidAtlantic Shipyards to construct the Roosevelt Roads Marina, attracting film and TV projects, and building an advance ship recycling facility.



The LRA master plan is also designed to provide better infrastructure and access to education and healthcare.

The LRA's goals include:

- Increasing economic activity by introducing a "Fast Ferry" service and refurbishing neglected hotels
- Improving educational opportunities by investing in science and math education and creating a Roosevelt Roads Science Park
- Promoting community safety by creating a prisoner reentry program
- Supporting wellness by establishing a food hub and promoting healthy food options
- Upgrading community infrastructure by refurbishing 505,000 square feet of existing facilities and leveraging community financing